

What is Claimed is:

1. A molding system comprising first and second mold components, at least one of said first and second mold components comprising a transmissive portion and a masking collar surrounding at least a portion of said transmissive portion, the transmissive portion allowing passage of curing energy therethrough, and the masking collar substantially blocking passage of curing energy therethrough.
2. The molding system of Claim 1, wherein said transmissive portion comprises a generally clear, amorphous polymeric material.
3. The molding system of Claim 2, wherein the generally clear, amorphous polymeric material comprises a cyclic-olefin copolymer.
4. The molding system of Claim 1, wherein said masking collar comprises a polymeric material impregnated with carbon black filler.
5. The molding system of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of said first and second mold components comprises a male mold profile.
6. The molding system of Claim 1, wherein the transmissive portion comprises a generally disc-shaped element, and wherein the masking collar comprises a ring fitting in close engagement around said transmissive portion.
7. The molding system of Claim 6, wherein the curing energy comprises UV light having a wavelength of between about 4 nanometers to about 380 nanometers, and the ring has a thickness of at least about 1000 times the wavelength of the curing energy.
8. The molding system of Claim 7, wherein the ring has a thickness of at least about 2mm.
9. The molding system of Claim 1, wherein the first mold component comprises the transmissive portion and the masking collar, and wherein the second mold component comprises a UV absorber.
10. The molding system of Claim 9, wherein the first mold component comprises a male mold component, and wherein the second mold component comprises a female mold component.

11. A polymeric molding formed between the first and second mold components of the molding system of Claim 1.
12. A mold component for casting and curing a polymeric item, said mold component comprising:
 - a transmissive portion comprising a material generally transparent to curing energy; and
 - a masking collar fitting in close engagement around at least a portion of said transmissive portion.
13. The mold component of Claim 12, wherein the transmissive portion comprises a generally clear, amorphous cyclic-olefin copolymer.
14. The mold component of Claim 12, wherein the masking collar comprises a polymeric material impregnated with carbon black filler.
15. The mold component of Claim 12, wherein the transmissive portion comprises a male mold profile.
16. The mold component of Claim 12, wherein the transmissive portion comprises a generally disc-shaped element, and wherein the masking collar comprises a ring surrounding said transmissive portion.
17. The mold component of Claim 16, wherein the curing energy comprises UV light having a wavelength of between about 4 nanometers to about 380 nanometers, and wherein the ring has a thickness of at least about 1000 times the wavelength of the curing energy.
18. The mold component of Claim 17, wherein the ring has a thickness of at least about 2mm.
19. The mold component of Claim 16, wherein the masking collar is mounted within a bushing sleeve.

20. A molding system comprising:
- a first mold component comprising a transmissive portion and a masking collar surrounding at least a portion of said transmissive portion, the transmissive portion allowing passage of UV energy therethrough, and the masking collar substantially blocking passage of UV energy therethrough; and
 - a second mold component comprising a UV absorber, wherein the first and second mold components are engageable to define a mold cavity.
21. The molding system of Claim 20, wherein the first mold component comprises a male mold profile, and wherein the second mold component comprises a female mold profile.
22. A polymeric molding formed between the first and second mold components of the molding system of Claim 20.
23. A method of forming a polymeric molding, said method comprising
- engaging a first mold component and a second mold component to define a mold cavity, said first mold component comprising a UV-transmissive portion and a UV-blocking collar;
 - depositing a dose of prepolymer material within the mold cavity; and
 - exposing at least a portion of the prepolymer material to UV energy through the UV-transmissive portion of the first mold component.
24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising reducing reflection of UV energy within the mold cavity by incorporating a UV-absorber into said second mold component.
25. The method of Claim 23, wherein the first mold component comprises a male mold component, and wherein the second mold component comprises a female mold component, and wherein the step of depositing a dose of prepolymer material within the mold cavity comprises depositing prepolymer material within the second mold component prior to engaging the first and second mold components.
26. A polymeric molding formed by the method of Claim 23.